

REMARKS

In view of the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the subject application.

§102 Rejections

Claims 31-64 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Vellanki et al. (5,999,979). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection on at least the grounds that Vellanki et al. is not prior art as against the subject application.

Vellanki et al. was filed on March 14, 1997, and issued as patent 5,999,979 on December 7, 1999.

The subject application claims priority to application serial number 08/822,156, filed March 14, 1997, now U.S. Patent Number 6,128,653. The priority claim is made by Preliminary Amendment filed March 15, 2000.

Applicant notes that U.S. Patent Number 6,128,653 includes a Certificate Of Correction that corrects the filing date shown on the Title Page at Item [22], from Mar. 17, 1997, to Mar. 14, 1997. Therefore, the effective filing date of the subject application is Mar. 14, 1997.

Accordingly, Vellanki et al. is not prior art against the current application, and the §102(e) rejections should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

All pending claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and prompt issuance of the present

1 application. Should any issue remain that prevents immediate issuance of the
2 application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney to
3 discuss the unresolved issue.

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5 Respectfully Submitted,

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8 Dated: 10/25/04

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